



Clearwater County

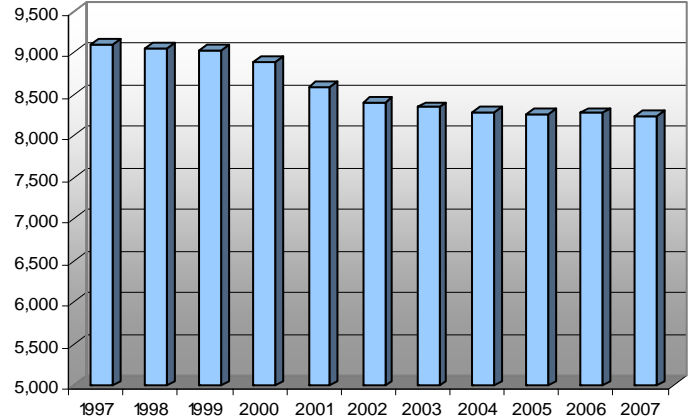
October 2008

Work Force Trends

Population

During the early 1990s, population in Clearwater County grew peaking at 9,232 in 1996. Hard economic times cause population to fall 10 percent from 9,099 in 1997 to 8,321 in 2007, while U.S. population grew 11 percent and Idaho's population grew 22 percent. New registrations for driver's licenses and job registrations indicate that the few people who did move to Clearwater County came from other parts of the Pacific Northwest and California. People move there to enjoy its scenery, recreational opportunities and rural lifestyle.

The county seat, Orofino, has a population of 3,070; Pierce, 530; Weippe, 380; and Elk River, 140.



Labor Force & Employment

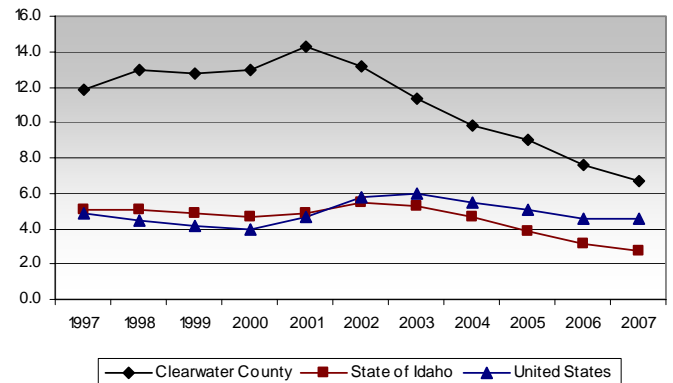
Since a decline in the forest products industry in the late 1990s climaxed with the closure of Pierce's Jaype Mill, the county has experienced significant employment decreases in almost all industries.

Economic development groups work hard to diversify the economy, attract new businesses and help existing businesses grow. To assist with business expansion, an industrial park in Orofino was constructed. Architectural Signs and Engraving, Inc. was the first tenant and has been successful.

In 2006, Clearwater County began to show signs of a recovery. Jobs were added in manufacturing, retail trade, tourism and health care. Unfortunately, troubles in the lumber industry once again are unsettling the area.

Federal and state employment provides some stability in the job base. The U.S. Forest Service employs 80 people

Unemployment Rates



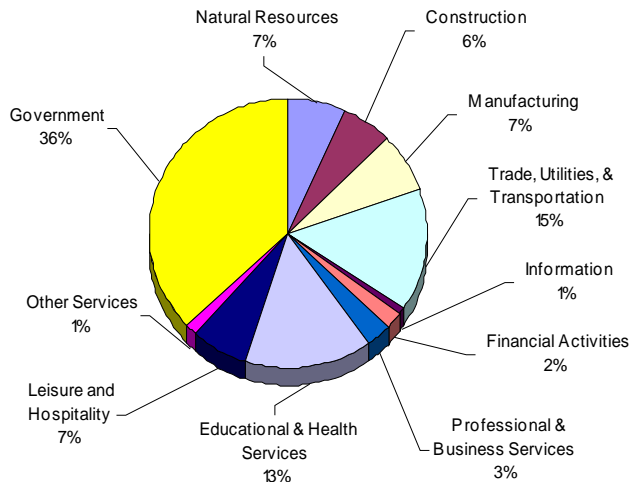
Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	3,144	3,146
Total Employment	2,958	2,852
Unemployed	187	294
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.9	9.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	4,220	4,297	4,068	3,674	3,555	3,478	3,278	3,364	3,322	3,274	3,253
Unemployment	496	559	519	477	508	459	372	331	300	250	216
% of Labor Force Unemployed	11.8	13.0	12.8	13.0	14.3	13.2	11.4	9.8	9.0	7.6	6.6
Employment	3,724	3,738	3,549	3,197	3,047	3,019	2,905	3,033	3,022	3,024	3,038

year-round and a few dozen more in the summer. Orofino is home to a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service hatchery, employing about 45 people. The State of Idaho operates a penitentiary and a mental health facility in Orofino. Together they employ about 230 people.

Tourists come to enjoy hunting and fishing opportunities, boating at Dworshak Dam, or learn about the area's role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The Lodge at River's Edge in Orofino opened in 2005 to provide upscale lodging to help attract more visitors for longer stays.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Economic Development

Clearwater County has struggled with high unemployment since the mid-1990s. Because of its persistent high unemployment, Clearwater County is an eligible labor surplus area, giving local businesses priority for government contracts.

Clearwater County Economic Development and local officials are making efforts to strengthen and diversify the economy. Over the next few years, Clearwater County will see how those efforts pay off.

Major Employers

Clearwater County
Clearwater Healthcare LLC
Clearwater Valley Hospital & Clinic
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Idaho State Penitentiary
Orofino Joint School District 171
Tri-Pro Forest Products
U.S. Forest Service

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Assemblers	\$8.75
Bookkeepers	\$8.50
Carpenters	\$13.50
Cashiers	\$6.50
Equipment Operators	\$11.50
General Office Clerks	\$7.50
Guards	\$9.80
Janitors	\$8.00
Millworkers	\$9.50
Nurses	\$17.50
Salespersons, Retail	\$6.75
Secretaries	\$8.50
Teachers	\$19.02
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$13.50

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,373	\$22,981	3,167	\$28,569	3,052	\$29,232
Agriculture	441	\$25,038	284	\$33,724	286	\$34,849
Mining	*	*	*	*	0	\$0
Construction	140	\$23,170	162	\$38,738	171	\$36,704
Manufacturing	487	\$30,466	309	\$32,433	219	\$27,656
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	414	\$18,112	421	\$24,054	424	\$26,830
Information	21	\$17,388	23	\$24,128	21	\$26,058
Financial Activities	70	\$16,151	60	\$29,127	58	\$23,355
Professional and Business Services	109	\$27,260	87	\$24,588	87	\$23,350
Educational and Health Services	127	\$15,906	453	\$25,428	449	\$28,380
Leisure and Hospitality	208	\$6,897	220	\$10,677	208	\$10,935
Other Services	45	\$15,197	33	\$18,458	35	\$18,835
Government	1,311	\$24,633	1,115	\$31,893	1,094	\$32,842

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Clearwater County	\$18,071	\$18,504	\$18,908	\$19,747	\$21,302	\$22,407	\$23,147	\$24,181	\$25,439	\$27,405
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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labor.idaho.gov

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